H3: Export possibilities

Project:	**H: Self-supporting hydrosystems & valorisation**
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Research description

The Netherlands are internationally known for their knowledge, experience, engineering and innovative measures for flood protection. The Netherlands have a long history and culture in the management of water and related issues. Decades if not centuries of researching the Dutch coastal and inland water system has contributed to the development of various flood protection measures, technologies, and hydrological forecasting models and tools. With these we can closely predict extreme events, their effects and the effectiveness of prevention or restoration measures. This extensive knowledge allows us to increasingly help deal with situations abroad as well, although there are always site-specific traits. Within the RiverCare project multiple measures that have been implemented in the Dutch river systems – in the Room for the River program- are being monitored and evaluated. Subproject H3 aims to investigate the export possibilities of RiverCare knowledge - whether it is hydro-morphological insight, research on ecosystem services or novel governance aspects - by identifying marketable information and/or end products, developing guidelines for both researchers and end users to 'cash in' on the potential, and exploring the need/demand for these information products.

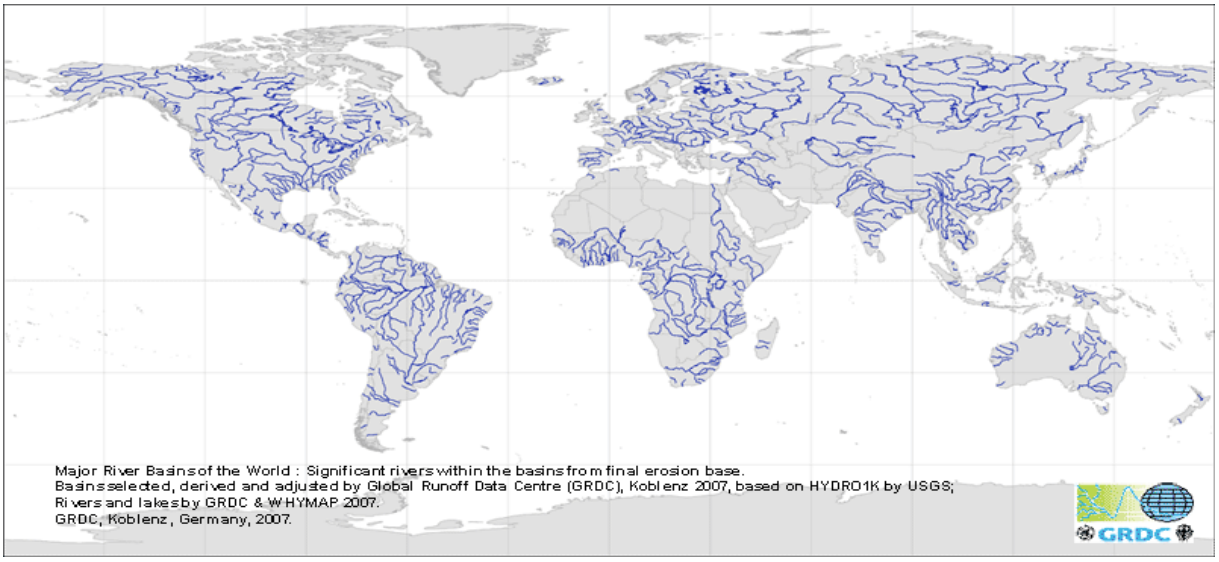

Figure1. Map of river basins on earth. Source: GRDC.

Results

In the first year we initiated an analysis of the Dutch water sector, specifically focused on the Deltatechnology (sub)sector. Deltatechnology focusses on the water availability, safety and liveability in delta and coastal areas. Our analysis resulted in a first overview of most important key players from the 'golden triangle': research institutes, governments and businesses. Each of these stakeholders plays a role in research, knowledge development, knowledge utilization and knowledge export. But how is this arranged? Do they always find the right partners to collaborate with, and how do they see their role? We'll continue this analysis through 2017.

Additionally, an overview of noticeable platforms and network organizations has been drafted. Many of such have been installed to: help promote Dutch knowledge on water-related issues globally; aid Dutch organizations in their ambitions to undertake international activities; gather signals of problems and needs abroad; and facilitate trade missions and events, thereby bringing knowledge providers and knowledge seekers together.

We started compiling a guideline document aimed to improve knowledge export, to help bridge the eternal gap between science and practice. It contains guidance on aspects like market analysis and approach, competition and strategic partnerships, cultural differences and governance structures, and funding mechanisms.

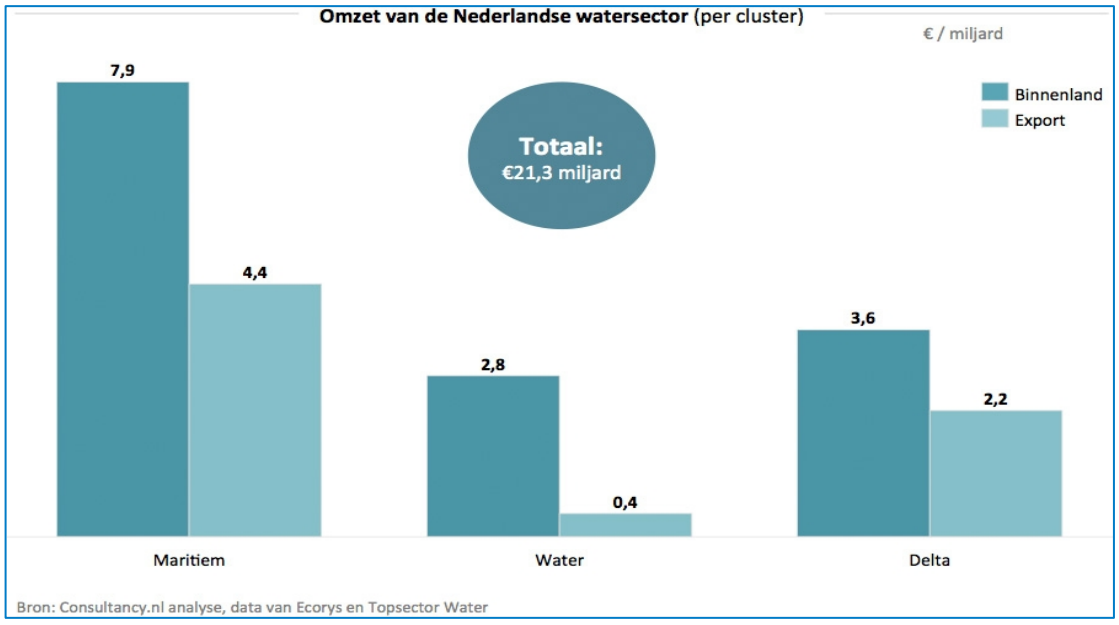

Figure 2. Graph showing revenues of the Dutch water sector in 2014. Source: Ecorys.

Next steps

The analysis of key players and network organisations shall be continued, to further explore how this 'playing field' is organized. The guidelines document will be completed using both scientific findings as well as experience from practice. More importantly, challenges related to river management abroad will be explored to get better insights in international needs for RiverCare research and results.

We will also explore the possibility to organize an event or workshop towards the end of the RiverCare program, in cooperation with existing network organisations.